

**NF-AT-INTERACTING PROTEIN NIP45 AND METHODS OF USE THEREFOR**

**Abstract**

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Isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding a novel protein, NIP45, that interacts with members of the Nuclear Factor of Activated T cell (NF-AT) family of proteins, are disclosed. The invention further provides antisense nucleic acid molecules, recombinant expression vectors containing a nucleic acid molecule of the invention, host cells into 10 which the expression vectors have been introduced and non-human transgenic animals carrying a NIP45 transgene. The invention further provides isolated NIP45 proteins and peptides, NIP45 fusion proteins and anti-NIP45 antibodies. Methods of using the NIP45 compositions of the invention are also disclosed, including methods for detecting NIP45 protein or mRNA in a biological sample, methods of modulating NIP45 activity in a cell, 15 and methods for identifying agents that modulate an interaction between NIP45 and an NF-AT family protein.

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